



Journal of Latin American Studies

Special Issue: What is Informality and What Could Be? Examples From the Latin American Region

The Journal of Latin American Studies (JLAS) invites submissions for its Special Issue *What is Informality and What Could be? Examples From the Latin American Region*. This issue aims to revisit the concept of informality from a Latin American perspective and to critically explore its meanings, uses, and political implications. While informality is frequently framed as the opposite of formality, this Special Issue seeks to go beyond binary understandings and to investigate the diversity of informal practices, theories, and lived realities in the region.

In recent years, "informality" has become an increasingly popular yet contested concept across multiple disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, urban studies, and development studies. From informal economies and governance systems to precarious labour and alternative mobilities, informality has been interpreted in highly divergent and sometimes contradictory ways. This Special Issue aims to map out these tensions, provide new empirical evidence from Latin America and the Caribbean, and advance theoretical insights grounded in regional experiences.

We welcome papers that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Everyday informal practices and their socio-political implications
- Informal governance and alternative forms of authority
- Shadow economies, labour precarity, and survival strategies
- Informality in urban and rural settings

- Mobility, migration, and informal networks
- Informality and state power: bypassing, supplementing, or resisting the state
- Post-pandemic vulnerabilities and informal practices of resilience

We particularly encourage contributions that are empirically grounded and draw on interdisciplinary approaches. The Special Issue seeks to both document the variety of informal practices in Latin America and theorize their significance for broader debates on governance, economy, and citizenship.

Keywords: Informality; Latin America; Economic Livelihoods; Urban and Rural Governance; Mobility and Migration; Labour Precarity; Post-pandemic Vulnerabilities.

This is part of the EU-funded [PRESILIENT](#) project: *Post-pandemic resilient communities: is the informal economy a reservoir for the next generation of digitalized and green businesses in the Global South?*

Deadlines

31 September 2025: Abstract submission (1–2 pages outlining the purpose, data, and methodology, and a short bio of no more than 150 words). Please email your abstract in English or Spanish to: presilient.dn@gmail.com and miria.gambardella@uab.cat

31 March 2026: Full manuscript submission for selected proposals. Articles must be at least 10,000 words in length and no longer than 12,000 words, including footnotes, tables, and references. For further author instructions, visit [the journal's website](#). All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer-review process in line with JLAS guidelines.

We look forward to your contributions!

Sincerely,

Néstor Castañeda

Editor

Miria Gambardella, Jairo Baquero Melo, Kate Maclean, Abel Polese

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